THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government are aware of the increase in the strength of the Pakistan Army and Para Military Forces since 1988. The figures mentioned in the Question are, however, at variance with the reports available with the Government.

(b) There are no such reports with the Government.

(c) Situation in the region is constantly monitored and all possible steps are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to meet any threat from our potential adversaries.

Provident fund accounts In BEL

6337. SHRI T.A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provident fund accounts in respect of ex-employees of Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore which have not been settled till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount involved has been misappropriated instead of paying to the ex-employees;

(c) what is the amount involved and the details of officials who have got the cheques cleared after issuing in the name of ex-employees;

(d) the amount of PF not yet claimed and lying with B.E. Limited; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to settle the accounts and pay the amount to the ex-employees and fix responsibility on the officials who have misappropriated the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The number of accounts pending settlement in Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore is 985 amounting to Rs. 6,52,233/-

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The total amount of provident fund not yet claimed and lying with BEL (all units) is Rs. 27,16,113/-

(e) The accounts of the ex-employees will be settled and paid to them as soon as they comply with the formalities prescribed under the Provident Fund Scheme. As no case of misappropriation has come to notice, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

Army officials killed in Kokarnag

6338. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Army officers and jawans have been killed in an encounter between the Army and militants in Kokarnag, about 80 kms. from Srinagar (J&K State) as reported in the Pioneer of October 21, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) what are the names and particulars of Army officers and jawans who have been killed and injured in the encounter with militants;

(d) what precautionary measures are being taken to check such mishaps to save the valuable lives of Army officers and jawans;

(e) what are the details of compensation paid or to be paid to the Army officers and jawans who have been killed/injured; and

(f) whether Government have made any additional ex-gratia payment other than the usual benefits to the victims of such encounters in Jammu and Kashmir State and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) On 9th October, 1994 an encounter took place at